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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/846,358	05/02/2001	Yukihiko Nansho	01309.00012	3942

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WASHINGTON, DC 20001

EXAMINER

THEIN, MARIA TERESA T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3625

DATE MAILED: 07/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/846,358

Applicant(s)

NANSHO, YUKIHIKO

Examiner

Marissa Thein

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ML

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant's "Amendment" filed on April 16, 2004 has been considered.

Claims 9, 11, 13, and 15 have been amended. Claims 9-16 remain pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 9-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 9, 11, 13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,854,746 to Yamamoto et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,591,243 to Grettve et al. Yamamoto discloses a processing system, an output unit and output method comprising:

- receiving and storing information from a material supplier regarding available material based on specification requirements and date of delivery of material, the specification requirements being presented by a manufacturer who supplies the commodity to the demander (see at least

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col. 4, lines 42-66; col. 5, lines 21-25; col. 5, lines 45-62; col. 5, line 65 – col. 6, line 17; col. 11, line 45 – col. 12, line 8; col. 12, lines 16- 32; col. 15, lines 58-63; col. 19, lines 60-67);

- storing and receiving information on available processing corresponding to the specification requirements and time of delivery of the processing (see at least col. 5, lines 65-62; col. 5, line 65 – col. 6, line 17; col. 11, lines 45 – col. 12, line 8; col. 19, lines 60-67);
- inputting from a demander information on desired material and desired processing for constructing elements constituting a commodity (see at least col. 4, lines 42-66; col. 5, lines 21-25; col. 5, lines 45-62; col. 5, line 65 – col. 6, line 17; col. 11, line 45 – col. 12, line 8; col. 12, lines 16- 32); and
- the outputting information the available material and the available processing corresponding to the input information on the desired material and the desired processing (see at least col. 4, lines 42-66; col. 5, lines 21-25; col. 5, lines 45-62; col. 5, line 65 – col. 6, line 17; col. 11, line 45 – col. 12, line 8; col. 12, lines 16- 32).

However, Yamamoto does not disclose the general date of delivery of a commodity based on the date of delivery of the material and the time of delivery of the processing. Yamamoto discloses an ordering system which can be made on a process-by-process basis or in accordance with the from of each raw material at each process level by reference to the to the history of the raw material, such as finishing, assembling, etc. factory up to the final raw material

(col. 6, lines 1-6). Grettve, on the other hand, teaches the general date of delivery of a commodity based on the date of delivery of the material and the time of delivery of the processing (see at least Figures 2-3; col. 2, lines 39-46; col. 5, lines 9-34).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the system, method, and unit of Yamamoto, to include the general date of delivery of a commodity based on the date of delivery of the material and the time of delivery of the processing, as taught by Grettve, in order to obtain efficient flow of goods, production scheduling and order processing (Grettve col. 2, lines 40-41).

Claims 10, 12, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,854,746 to Yamamoto et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,591,243 to Grettve et al. and in further view of the article "Earth-friendly good". The combination of Yamamoto and Grettve substantially discloses the claimed invention, however, the combination does not explicitly disclose the thinned-out woods. However, the combination discloses raw materials (Yamamoto see at least abstract and summary of invention). Yamamoto does not disclose that his raw material is specifically is thinned-out wood. The article "Earth-friendly good" teaches the raw material is thinned-out wood. (See whole article)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify the combination of Yamamoto and Grettve, to

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include the thinned-out woods, in order to provide an order with reference to the raw material, such as thinned-out woods, attributes so that the raw materials can be made available in amounts just necessary and sufficient for current production needs without the disadvantage of placing an unnecessary order (Yamamoto col. 4, lines 60-67).

Conclusion

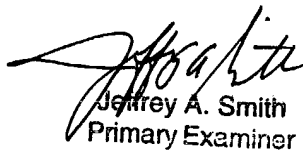
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marissa Thein whose telephone number is 703-305-5246. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Smith can be reached on 703-308-3588. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mtot
July 12, 2004


Jeffrey A. Smith
Primary Examiner